The Logger's BARK

1916 - Radio club of Tacoma - 2016

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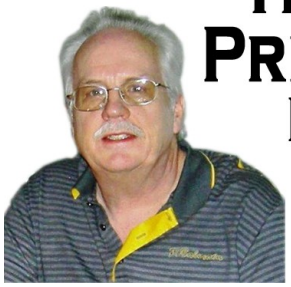

The RCT President's Report

by Gary McAdams WG7X

Hello fellow club members;

At the request of our esteemed new/ old "Loggers Bark" editor, I will be using this monthly platform to address the general membership. Rich Patrick, KR7W has picked up the Bark Editor position since Mike Finnie W7MWF is moving to the position of Club Secretary. Let's welcome Rich back to an editorship that he has held once before. I am confident that he will do an outstanding job for the club.
In this, the inaugural message, I thought that it would be good to look ahead to the Radio Club of Tacoma's Centennial year. This will be my sixth year as the club's president, and I have enjoyed being the point man for the club during my tenure, but this October will be an opportunity for another to take the position. At this time, I believe that there are several good candidates who will be willing and able to take the club into the next century!

The club will be One Hundred years old this coming October we should be grateful that we as a group can share in the celebration of this big birthday!

To that effect, we are planning a Banquet, and some sort of special operating event, probably with a 1x1 call and plenty of fun to go around.

We have not yet finalized the plans, so the floor is open for suggestions. Several good ideas have already been floated, tested and found to be impractical for various reasons.

Let us not get too discouraged about that: as I said the floor is still open. Suggestions to me, or any of the other club officers. The last few days have given us a great opportunity to get re-acquainted with each other, starting with the most excellent RCT Awards banquet hosted by Dave and Anne Ellison. Dave and Anne have been very involved with the club and we really appreciate their efforts on our behalf. After the banquet, we had Straight Key Night at the clubhouse, another annual event, this year ably hosted by Randy Myers and Rich Patrick.

UpComing Notable Club Activities

1/12, Tues 7:00 PM VE Testing at Club Hse
1/13, Weds 7:30 PM Club Meeting
1/27, Weds 7:00 PM Clubhouse Activity
2/03, Weds 7:00 PM RCT Board Meeting
2/06, Sat 9:00 AM FYBO Winter Field Day
2/09, Tues 7:00 PM VE Testing at Club Hse
2/10, Weds 7:30 PM Club Meeting
2/23, Weds 7:00 PM Clubhouse Activity
3/05, Sat 9:00 AM **Mike and Key Swapmeet [LINK]**
See w7dk.org for more details….

Folks, I have been to quite a few SKN events with the club and I must say that this year's event was the best attended and popular event in quite a while. If you were not there, you missed a real party!

Continued pg 14

GREAT CAESAR'S GHOST

BY RICH KR7W - BARK EDITOR

Thanks Prez Gary for the Intro. For many years I was the club's w7dk.org website editor/webmaster, the self proclaimed "Web Geek". That's effluence down the drain. In my effort to give back to our hobby I am offering up previous newsletter (Tacoma Bicycle Club) and technical writing experience (At&T) to RCT for a tenure of 24 months as editor of THE LOGGER'S BARK.

Almost 4 years ago I retired from a long career in various forms of analog and digital communications systems; i.e. cable carrier, microwave, fiber-optics, and most recently mobile radio systems. Some of you know of my Geek Tendencies which will most likely influence the content of this newsletter. I am pretty open minded regarding LOGGER'S BARK content… I want to print what Bark readers want to read. I am now asking readers to contribute to the various columns I will create as regular features of this newsletter.

Regular monthly columns are: **The President's Report**– state of the union, **The New Thing–** what's new, **NR Years Ago**– history lesson, **Ham Shack of the Month**, A **Construction-Instructional** column, **Around the Club House**– for readers to learn something about the clubs property as well as past and future happenings, **Ham-Ads** for members to buy-sell-trade equipment, **Photo Page**; The **regular required** items like meeting minutes and/or disclaimers.

Some ham related factoids about me: I was licensed in 1963– a geeky fat kid– and operated 99 percent Morse until 1977 when I wandered away from ham radio for family and career. In 2002 I experienced a career change where I became a mobile radio systems technician at a nearby E911 dispatch center. Some co-workers were hams which influenced me to become re-licensed. My YL Patricia and I took ham classes at the RCT Clubhouse from now SK Jerry W7BUN. In a **Rip Van Winkle [Link]** way- I woke up to some new ham radio technology that is fascinating to me. Still my favorite operating mode is CW-Morse code. I enjoy building projects to augment my HF station operation as well the pre-1963 technology which takes me into the club's W7OS Museum to repair and operate the old vacuum tube rigs.

IMPORTANT INFO for you, Gentle Reader… It's my desire to include Internet Web Links in articles to provide more information to the reader who is interested in the subject matter at hand. Microsoft's 'Publisher' software- used to create this newsletter- does allow for imbedded web LINKs… however when the reader is viewing the link in the published PDF file on their screen it does not show up with BLUE color like Microsoft has conditioned us to look for. I sent a radio-gram via the WARTS NTS Net on 3975 to Bill Gates to get some Tech-Support, but until I get this resolved... I will make web LINKS look like: **WARTS NET [LINK]** It shows up blue to me… but not to you.

73 GN 30 SK DE KR7W CL

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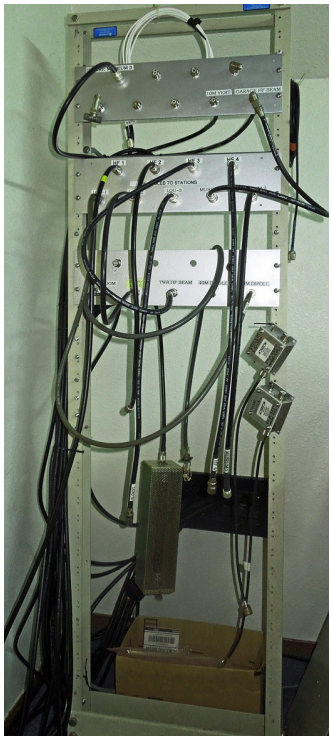
HAMSHACK OF THE MONTH

BY CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

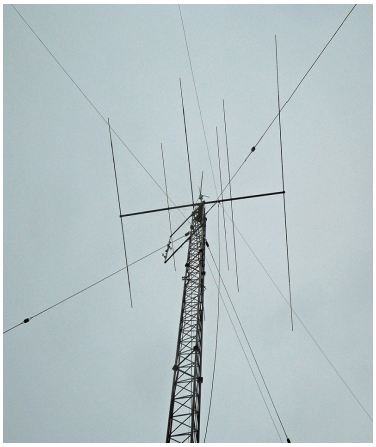
This new column hopes to profile members ham shacks and give the reader a view of how contributing readers do their ham radio hobby business. Readers just might get ideas for their own radio shack from the contributing stations. That's the hope anyway. Send the Bark a photo or two and a written description of the equipment and how you operate it.

This popular ham station will be the first in this series. It's one of W7DK's stations, in the upstairs "Jerry" Room at the Clubhouse- known as "The HF Station". [written by KR7W]



To the Left of the HF station desk is an equipment rack that contains the Antenna to Rig patch panel. W7DK sports an 80M and 40M dipole, two 20-15-10M Yagis, and a 10M Vertical. Via the panel– the antennas can be patched to the two operation positions in the HF Room, the Lou Room, and/or two locations in the W7OS Museum. The jumpers have PL259 on one end and N on the other. This patching scheme makes it nearly impossible to transmit into another radio.

Above the desk, L-R: Drake L4B Linear Amplifier (about 1200W SSB). On top is a RF Power Meter for Amp tune up. R of the Monitor is the station microphone with GE mobile mic element. Station Speaker with Front/Rear/ Headphone switching. The star of the station is an *Icom 756-Pro3* HF transceiver. Then the Yagi Rotator Control box. Above the Pro3 is the PC to radio interface box and station PC for logging and digital work– Various CW keys sit ready for the Morse ham. On the shelf under the table top resides the Linear Amp Power supply and a 30 Amp Astron Power supply for the 13.8V devices. A Foot Switch for the mic is on the floor. [kr7w photos]



The 'main attraction' antenna at W7DK is the big 20-15-10M Yagi on top of a 85 ft high Rohn 65 tower. The tower also supports the center of the 80M + 40M dipoles as well as the 2M and 70CM repeater antennas.

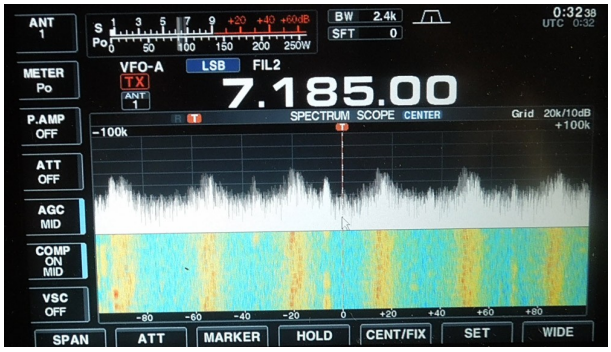
Gentle Bark readers… no matter how big or little your operation is– please share your shack for others to view and learn from.

599kr7w@gmail.com [LINK]

Photos must be at least 200 dpi for editing purposes. Thanks,
Rich KR7W 30 73 GN SK CL

HINTS AND KINKS
CONSTRUCTION & INSTRUCTION
BY READER SUBMISSION

Last Saturday Joe and I were in my ham shack preparing to check into the Sasquatch Hunters Net- held on 7.185 MHz at 3PM on random Saturdays. My brother John KF7MYI (perhaps some members met him at RCT's 2015 FD) usually acts as **N**et **C**ontrol **S**tation. Today I wanted to use the big radio instead of the little SOTA rig. After the radio booted up we hear and see a horrendous amount of noise on the radios scope which indicates 20dB over S-9 at the peaks and S-9 in the valleys. Lately the 40

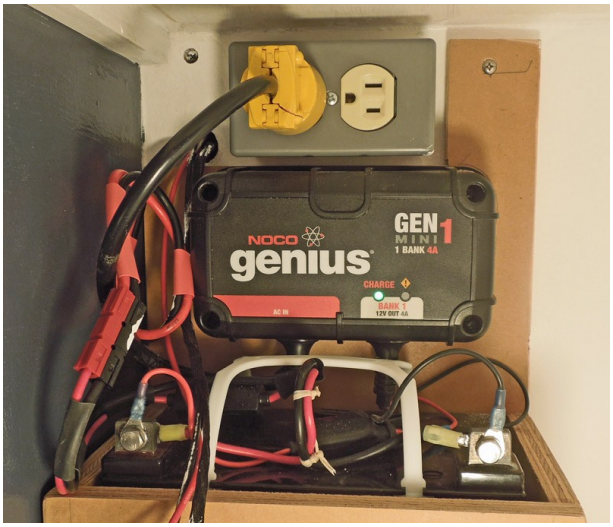


This photo was taken after I restarted the battery charger after the net was over. Originally the noise peak was right on 7185. I can guess that the frequency of the 'switcher' moves or drifts as time goes on.

Meter noise has been S-3 or less since the older couple a half block down the street moved away and took their medical oxygen generating machine (or was it grow lights?) that wiped out 5 to 9 MHz. Today's noise is different with distinctive peaks every 39 KHz.

On the net I was having a hard time hearing my brother but Mike W7XTZ (RCT Vice Prez in Bonny Lake) was booming over the noise. I asked him to chat with my Bro whilst I investigated my problem. As they QSOed I asked my friend Google, "ham radio noise every 39 KHz". The first hit took me to an eHam.net Q&A session where many self proclaimed experts contributed their solutions to another hams noise problem. However, one contribution stood out to me, "33 and 66 KHz Switching Power supply noise". More Googling "Switching Power Supply Noise" netted me **KA7OEI's [LINK] Blog** where he writes about very strong hum-laden carriers every 30-50 kHz across the **broadcast [LINK] band**".

BCB Noise? An AHAH! Moment struck me and I remembered recently purchasing a 4 amp smart battery charger for the Gel-Cell battery in my camping trailer. The first time I plugged the charger into AC power- I noticed that it wiped out the AM radio station I listen to. My trailer is always plugged into AC "Shore Power" to run a small heat source to alleviate condensation in the cabin. Maybe I left the charger plugged into AC power. Yes?



Here's the culprit… 5 star ratings… low price… HIGH RFI. It wasn't worth saving $17.

It was easy to unplug the shore power from the trailer and recheck for noise. Now, all Sasquatch Hunters can easily be heard at S-3 noise level.

Continued… page 14

AROUND THE CLUBHOUSE
PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE INFO

The Straight Key Night Report—for 2016- compiled by Rich KR7W

RCT's celebration of the New Year begins with **Straight Key Night** which is an ARRL operating event that encourages amateurs to bring out their old timey mechanical keys and put them on the air– to celebrate some of Ham Radios heritage. SKN runs for 24 hours on January 1, 0000 UTC. For the Umteenth year– The W7OS Doc Spike Museum opens up the club house for a pot luck party and to put some Museum Vintage stations on the air. This year 37 folks signed the roster but it seemed like many more attended. The club provided Pizza and drinks and visitors brought desserts.

The Modern Lou Room station with a Straight Key operated on 20 meters whilst two antique stations upstairs pounded brass. The Museum station on 80M was a Heathkit Apache transmitter at 100W and Collins 75A4 receiver. A second vintage station on 40M was set up in the Jerry Room– a Harvey Wells TBS50 transmitter and Collins Military R388 receiver. The old Harvey did surprisingly well only running 20 Watts to the club 40M dipole. Each QSO was recorded on a separate log sheet to generate these stats compiled by SKN Co-Host Randy WB4SPB:

QSOs by Band: 20M - 8 QSOs, 40M - 10 QSOs, 80M - 4 QSOs

QSOs by CW Operator: KR7W - 3 QSOs, W7MWF - 1 QSOs, WB4SPB - 6 QSOs, KG7HWU - 7 QSOs, KK7QW - 3 QSOs, AD7AV - 1 QSO, W7WG - 1 QSO.

QSOs By QTH: TX -3 QSOs, CA -4 QSOs, ID -2 QSOs, WA -5 QSOs, BC -4 Qs, WY - 1 QSO, UT - 1 QSO, AB - 1 QSO, AR - 1 QSO.

Pete KK7QW operates the Lou Room Station on 20 Meters. Gretta KF7KSW and Bruce WE7P observe.

David, W7HTJ works the world with the Heathkit Apache + Collins 75A4 80 Meter Museum Station.

Continued...

It's great fun for hams to put their old vintage rigs on the air and hear them like it was when I began ham radio as a kid. In one QSO I had– I remarked to the ham in Camano Island that his CW signal sounded 'chirpy'. He replied that his 500 watt homebrew transmitter was 'engineered to have chirp'. Ha! I happened to make two movies of QSOs.
W7OS QSO with W7PFR **W7OS KG7HWU at KEY**

Morse Code BINGO returned for the second year and provided some Starbucks gift cards to the winners. Bingo was provided by Sooz WB4SPB YL, Pat WT7N, and Leonard KA7NWF.

Worth W7WG listens intently in his QSO at the 80 Meter

Two of the FOOD stations at SKN.

The Pete KK7QW Key Judging Contest produced two entries– as seen above. AC7QN's key is Russian Army Surplus from a Cold War era Tank radio set. The leg strap made the judges foot go to sleep.

W7MWF's key is US Navy WW2 Surplus and is Flame Proof.
Winner!! This key is the 2016 SKN KJC Winner!!

Morse BINGO– called by Pat WT7N and code sent by Leonard KA7NWF. Red WB7EC is one of the players.

SKN Continued ….

More SKN….

Radig KG7HWU at the 40 Meter Harvey Wells station. The Transmitter is driven by the Heathkit VF-1 VFO, circa 1953.

Randy WB4SPB at the 80M Heathkit Apache Station.

Next Month… The 'Around the Clubhouse' column hopes to take the reader into the nooks and crannies of the RCT Clubhouse. What's behind that door? Perhaps it'll be revealed. 73 30 GN SK DE KR7W CL

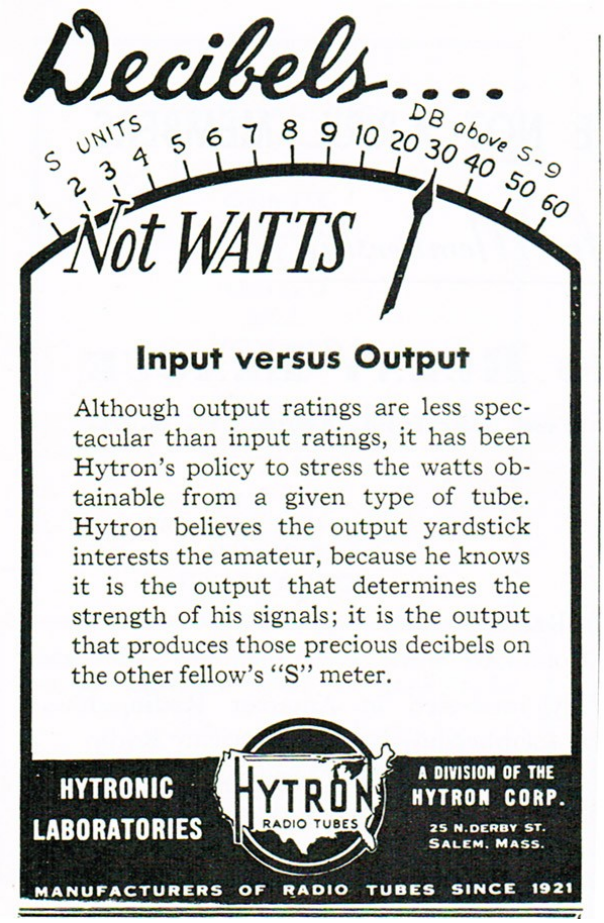
the Radio Club of Tacoma

Your Radio Club
Needs your help

RCT needs donations….

of Amateur Radio Equipment

Your Radio Club receives a lot of its revenue from selling ham radio property at Clubhouse events, The Mike & Key Hamfest, The CVARS Hamfest, and soon to be Ebay. The sold items as well as items the club uses is from items donated to the club. Please do what you can to help this process out. *Thanks– RCT Property Mgmt Team.*


Decibels....
S UNITS
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 20 30 40 50 60
DB above S-9
Not WATTS
Input versus Output
Although output ratings are less spectacular than input ratings, it has been Hytron's policy to stress the watts obtainable from a given type of tube. Hytron believes the output yardstick interests the amateur, because he knows it is the output that determines the strength of his signals; it is the output that produces those precious decibels on the other fellow's "S" meter.
HYTRONIC LABORATORIES
HYTRON
RADIO TUBES
A DIVISION OF THE HYTRON CORP.
25 N. DERBY ST.
SALEM, MASS.
MANUFACTURERS OF RADIO TUBES SINCE 1921

2016 FYBO QRP Winter Field Day… Courtesy of Mike W7MWF

Join your friends and colleagues on **Saturday, February 6, 2016** for the umpteenth annual **W7DK Winter Field Day**. Activities include participation in the world-wide **FYBO** (**F**reeze **Y**our **B**uns **O**ff) **QRP** Contest. As an added attraction, for Club Members and the public at large, we will be hosting a Hidden Transmitter Hunt, sometimes called a "Bunny Hunt".

Interesting wildlife beside ham ops and hunted bunnies sometimes spotted at FYBO.

A change in Venue for 2016. The new location will be at the Ft Nisqually Picnic Shelter. Setup will begin around 8 am and we plan to be on-the-air at 9am. Remember, the colder it is at our transmitting site, the more points W7DK can score. Rain, snow, or sunshine, W7DK will be On The Air!

Usually we furnish luke-warm coffee, stale

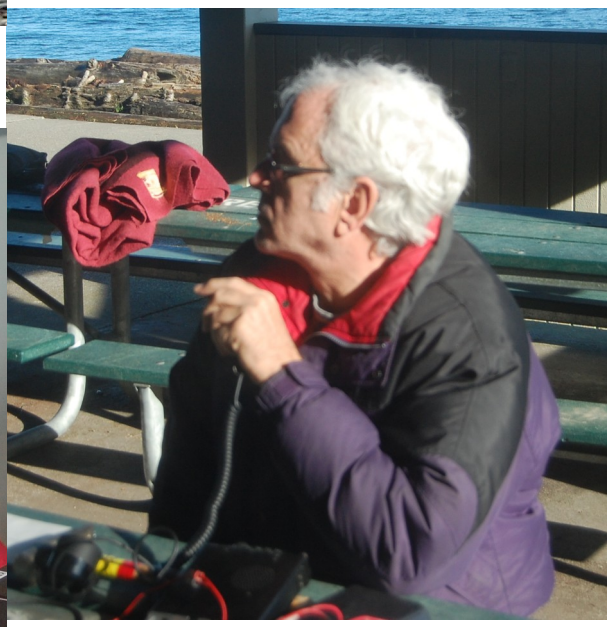


Photo above: Chuck AC7QN makes direct contact with rare Vitamin D signals at Owen Beach's 39 deg WX in February as he operates in the Minnesota QSO party to tally up QRP points.

Photo Left: "QRP Bob" KE7WPK makes some CW QSOs with his 40 Meter QRP rig.

Note: New Lactation is Ft Nisqually Picnic Area

Editor's Note: W7DK has been awarded the FYBO QRP Winter Field Day First Place Finisher many years past. Due to the new data system cutover at the Bark HQ…. I cant tell you, Gentle Readers, which years nor how many times. But believe me, it happened– and it wouldn't have happened with out your support of bringing down hot drinks and baked goods. RCT President Gary has proclaimed Feb 6 as Low A1C day– so it's OK to stop by and have a sugary snack and cheer on the FYBOers. You just might see an ingenious antenna contraption to boot. 72 73 30 GN SK CL QRT.

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RCT Board Meeting Minutes - 2 December 2015

The Radio Club of Tacoma Board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma.
Officers and board members present:
President, Gary McAdams WG7X
Vice President, Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Secretary, Larry Watson KD4VOM
Treasure, VACANT
Board Member, Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board Member, Mike Finnie W7MWF
Board Member, Al Ferguson N7OMS
There were 11 names on the attendance roster a copy of which is attached to the original minutes

Quorum: Yes. The meeting was called to order at 7 pm by President Gary McAdams WG7X.

Minutes: ***The minutes of the November 2015 Board Meeting as distributed and coordinated, were approved without objection or correction.***

HEALTH AND WELFARE: None Reported

SECRETARY'S REPORT:
Bank Statements
Utility and Phone Bills
Newsletters
Memberships
Contest Journal
Experimenters Journal
Electric Radio
QSL Cards
DNR Insurance request

TREASURER'S REPORT: **Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ:** Reports that second half RCT property taxes have been paid. Reports that our Liability insurance invoice has been paid.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: George K7GRS reported membership stands at 325. **Training**: The next Technician's Class February 2016. **Information Technology: –** Randy Myers WB4SBP- We have received a donated computer which is being checked out. If it proves useful it could be used for logging.

HF Operations: Operational

Repeaters: Repeater Status:

W7DK 145.21 Repeater, Bates Channel 28: --Operational

W7DK 147.28 Repeater Clubhouse: Status — Operational

W7DK 147.38 Repeater Crawford Mountain: Status – Operational, *awaiting installation of the 440 MHz control unit*

Tim has the new antenna for the Crawford Mountain repeater

W7DK 440.625 Repeater Clubhouse Status –Operational

IRLP 147.28 Repeater) Operational

Facilities Management: Garage paint will be stored to avoid freezing

RCT Club Tower: Nick Winter K7MO provided (by separate cover) information that he is in negotiations with a Tower Inspector and expects to have more information at January's meeting.

Property Management: **Mike W7MWF:** Reported last Saturday Swap meet income of $119.00
Mike reports that discussions with James C Pallwitz W7ZND on possible EBay project continue

General Membership Meeting Program: The December program will be a reprise of Dave W7UUU's "Why upgrade to General and beyond"

Continued Next Page...

RCT Board Meeting Minutes - 2 December 2015 - Page 2

Workshop Project: The December workshop session will be open ended for general discussion

Museum: **Rich KR7W** No Report

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Bylaws Amendment
Pending December meeting ballot

Annual Awards Banquet
Sunday, December 6th
Scottish Rite Temple 817 S Vassault St, Tacoma, WA 98465
The Banquet will be held from 2 pm to 7pm, Setup around 2 pm; ceremonies from 3 to 6; Tear down and cleanup from 6 to 7 pm

NEW BUSINESS:
Kid's Day 3 January 2016: Mike W7XH provide an overview of plans for the ARRL Kid's Day at the W7DK Clubhouse. There are plans to provide refreshments and special certificates, as well to setup some "dummy load" capabilities. Mike is asking for club members to assist in operating with the Kids day. Kids day operations will be from 10 am to 4 pm. ***A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize expenditure of up to $ 100.00 in support of the Kid's Day project.***

Straight Key Night: Randy WB4SBP noted that plans are underway for this year's Straight Key Night**.**
It was the consensus of the Board that costs incurred for Straight Key Night are recurring costs and reasonable expenses will be reimbursed.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:
RCT Transition topics: Larry KD4VOM recommended the Board consider necessary adjustments to our process for managing an annual budget, and to prevent missing regular bills. The process should include identifying who is responsible for keeping track, especially until the club can secure a full time Treasurer.

Secretarial Transition: Larry KD4VOM and Mike W7MWF are in the process of reviewing club actions and responsibilities evolving from a change in the Secretary's position; to include Bank Accounts; ARRL Club Records and State Non Profit key officer listings.

Program Manager Update: January's Board meeting should review and approve necessary changes in the club program, event and committee assignments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:
ATTABOYS: Mike Isakson W7XH for kicking off the new Kids Day project

The meeting was adjourned at 19:40

HAM - ADS
FOR SALE - WTB - TRADE

THE FINE PRINT DISCLAIMERS:

1. Paid Up Club Members Only.

2. Ads must be submitted by the last day of the month to appear the following month.

3. The Bark staff will try to accommodate your ham ad… but can not guarantee it will appear.

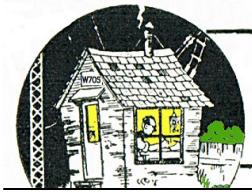
4. Correspondence is **via email ONLY**. **599kr7w@gmail.com [LINK]** The subject line should say: "Bark Ham Radio Ad".

For Sale: Icom V8000 2 Meter Mobile Transceiver [LINK]. 75W. Used, but in good condition. $115. email Rich KR7W .

For Sale: Hallicrafters HA-4 TTO Keyer [LINK]. Circa 1961. Has some mods w/ original electronics. It's a Code Practice Oscillator that accepts Iambic paddle keys w/ 1/4" plug. Comes with an adaptor cable for Straight Key operation. Pretty good shape—$30. email Rich KR7W.

For Sale: Turner Super Sidekick Microphone [LINK]. Circa 1975. OK Shape. It'd look sharp if cleaned up. $10 as is. For $25 more I'll mod it to work with your modern Icom Rig with 8 pin round mic plug. Email Rich KR7W.

YOUR STUFF COULD BE LISTED HERE



TNT
THE NEW THING

WHAT'S NEW AND NOTABLE IN HAM RADIO?
CONTRIBUTIONS BY READERS LIKE YOU

Prologue: The intended purpose of this column is for readers to contribute and share something 'new to you' (doesn't matter if it's 3 or 4 years old) that pertains to our ham radio hobby. The Bark Staff encourages readers to tell us what you've found. Write an article or a couple of sentences or a personal testimony of the 'new to you' item and the Bark Elves will deliver it to the dear readers.

SDRs by Rich KR7W

In this case… it's **S**oftware **D**efined **R**eceivers. This article is about my recent experiences with SDRs and how any PC user can go about having and using one.

A couple of months ago a club member loaned me his **Softrock Ensemble RXTX [LINK]** transceiver kit. I had no intention of transmitting– only figuring out how to use the receiver and possibly putting it into use in my ham shack– perhaps as a second receiver with a big spectrum scope.

I was reluctant to give this a try because I heard that installing all of the software and configuring it was complex. I took my time and followed the instructions provided on the Softrock webpage cited above and configuration ended up easier than I thought. With the receiver connected to my modest fan dipole antenna– I tuned in 40 meters and saw as well as heard many CW signals and then found the Noon Time Net on 7.2685 MHz. I listened away and experimented with the receivers features and controls.

After dark I perused the SWL (**S**hort**w**ave **L**istener) parts of the HF band from 5 to 10 MHz and found many international as well as USA stations. It's still great fun that took me back to when I was a kid and had just finished building a Heathkit Shortwave receiver kit. Once again, I am listening to the world via a modest radio– but now it's coming out of my PC speakers.

Because the SDR is very visual as well as audible– I think it is a great way to demonstrate radio to folks who might want to become a ham operator, especially for kids. With that said… I encourage you, gentle readers, to look into a SDR for your home, office or ham shack.

All of this radio 'newness' stimulated me to study SDRs in greater depth– where I discovered two distinctive types of SDRs.

My first encounter was the 'Softrock' from **Fivedash Inc [LINK]**. This SDR uses a SI570 high frequency PC controlled oscillator chip where the signal is divided down to be used in the SWL and HF ham bands. In my investigating it became to apparent to me that this method of SDR-ing provides for a more sensitive receiver. The Softrock creates an output signal called I/Q– **Super Geek Explanation [LINK]** and requires the PC to have stereo Line Input sound card available. The Softrock models are very popular with a Yahoo group full of friendly and helpful SDR users. Here's a great Youtube video from N4LQ of the **Softrock Ensemble II SDR [LINK]** in action.

Coincidently, in the Jan 2016 QST magazine– The DIY Issue– there is an article on how you can use an inexpensive RTL SDR USB stick to connect to circuitry you must build to be able to receive the SWL and HF ham bands. The article is enlightening but seems that now-a-days most hams do not build their own gear.

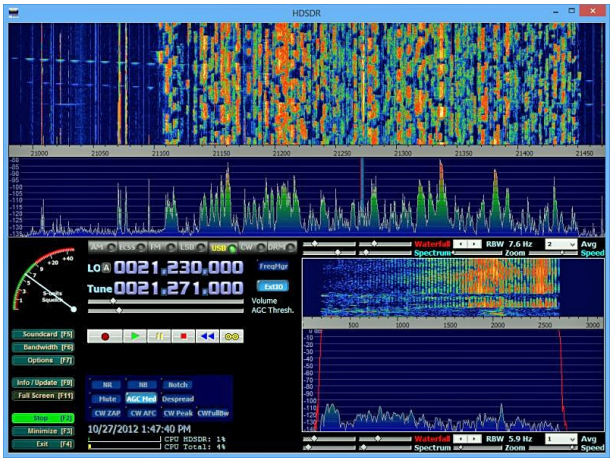
The RTL USB Dongle used in the QST article was originally built for folks in Europe and Asia to plug into their PC and receive off the air TV programming. The RTL SDR's receive frequency range is from 25 to 1700 MHz which is not low enough for SWL or HF

Continued next page…

...SDR from Page 11

Ham listening. To the rescue to convert the HF ham and SWL frequencies to RTL frequencies is a gizmo called an Up-Converter. The QST article's DIY circuitry builds an up-converter that adds 100 MHz to the desired HF signal so the RTL Dongle can receive it and send it to the PC for processing. The USB RTL dongle does not require the use of a PC soundcard.

The **RTL USB SDR [LINK]** is available at Amazon.com as well as the matching up converter gizmo known as the **Ham it Up [LINK]**. The Amazon Q&A section for this product contains a plethora of information regarding creating your own HF SWL SDR



HDSDR Software screen shot. Click Photo for more information on SDR Software programs.

using these two devices. Here's another Youtube video by N4LQ on the **RTL+Ham it Up [LINK]**.

I'd be remiss if I left out telling you about VK3YE, Peter Parker's efforts of demonstrating very simple SDRs. VK3YE is an avid builder and QRPer– and even if you are not interested in building any part of a SDR– I highly recommend watching Peter's **Youtube videos [LINK]** for the theory of it all.

Both types of SDR need software for your PC in order to control the equipment and process the radio signals and present them for visual and aural user consumption.

The QST DIY article speaks of SDR# (pronounced SDR Sharp) software. This is a popular program and has the ability to subtract out the 100 MHz conversion factor of the Up-Converter. This means the receivers actually receive frequency is corrected automatically and displays on your screen without performing any math. The software recommended for the Softrock is HDSDR and provides similar features. Just like a high end radio transceiver from YaIcoKenElTec– the Hardware, PC, and SDR software has the ability to cancel noise and pull impossible to receive signals from the murky ether. I am amazed– just like my first adventure of SWLing when I was a kid.

Heathkit Mohican SWL Receiver (vintage 1962) that Joe owned when we where kids. My receiver was a vacuum tube powered AR-3. There is one in the W7OS Museum– check it out sometime and see how far ham radio has come.

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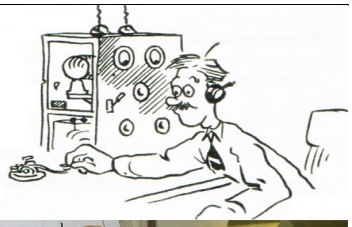


The Paraset "Spy" Radio

By The Old Goat

The **Paraset**, known as the **'Mark VII Spy Set' [LINK]**, was one of the first successful miniaturized low-power Vacuum Tube CW (Morse code) radio sets for Britain's Special Operations Executive– which conducted espionage and other clandestine activities behind German lines in France, Belgium and the Netherlands during World War II. This radio *set* was known as the 'Paraset' because it was dropped by *parachute* for the field agents who used them.

The radio consists of a one tube (6V6) Crystal Controlled transmitter and a two tube regenerative receiver. The set was powered from AC Mains, a 6 volt vibrator power supply, and sometimes clever bicycle powered generators.

Some controls: Upper L is the Power Connector, pointer knob is RCV-XMT, Big Knob is Recv. Tuning, lower R knob is the telegraph key, two lamps under the R tube socket are for tuning the transmitter circuit and antenna matching (like a manual antenna tuner). The antenna connects to the two small sockets in the top middle of the case.

The resistance 'spy' agent who used the Paraset would clandestinely and quickly set it up, transmit the information (to be received in Britain), and then put everything away. The Regenerative receiver just happened to emit a low level signal from the antenna which the German's could track with Radio Direction Finding equipment. So it was important for the agent to be quick about sending their report. This job was considered the most dangerous of WWII.

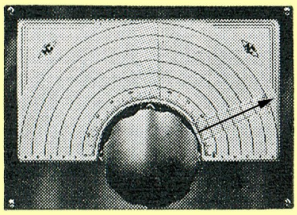
Now-a-days there are niche groups of amateur radio operators who build replicas of the historic radio set and use them on the ham bands.

Links to Paraset Ham Operators:

VE7SL [LINK] **W7OIL [LINK]** **W9RAS[LINK]**

Club member Chuck AC7QN has built a Paraset replica and is a good resource to ask questions of. At a past Straight Key Night the W7OS Museum– using pre WW II equipment– made contact with Chuck's Paraset located at his Fox Island QTH.

At club member KR7W's Station – the collecting of parts is underway.



THE END OF THE DIAL

THE PAGE WHERE ARTICLES END

Prez Gary, continued….. The place was full and almost bursting at the seam with all the members and their families. There were three full HF stations on the air, pizza's served hot and tasty, just like the commercials say, only better.

There were folks making contacts using the "old timey" stations up stairs and a few, using the more modern station down stairs. Randy, bless his heart even tried to get me, the world's worst CW operator on the air in the museum. I had to decline, because I did not want to embarrass my self any more than strictly necessary! Yes, I have feet of clay. Can't help it, I just do not do so well in front of the audience. Sorry Randy…

Well enough for now and we will see you at the clubhouse most any Saturday. Come on down, chomp a doughnut, sip some coffee and have a good time! -Gary WG7X-

…from Noisy Battery Charger

Mission complete? Not hardly. After more closely reading KA7OEI's blog… I now plan to experiment with the hope of stopping the battery charger RFI. Joe is strongly encouraging me not to take the charger apart.

So Readers… If you have noise peaks every 10-60 KHz on your HF Radio… think about Switching Power Supplies and **KA7OEI's Blog [LINK]** information. What noisy electronics are new at your house after the Gift Giving/ Receiving Season? A new Drill Motor or smart phone Battery Charger?

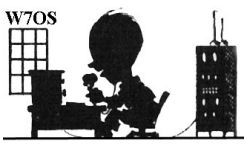
Bark readers… please submit your ideas or story and let me know what subjects you'd like to see in this column. No need to be proficient at writing articles– as I am not. **send me some [LINK] facts** and we can work together to create interesting reading material. 73 Rich KR7W

FYBO Winter Field Day… Continued…

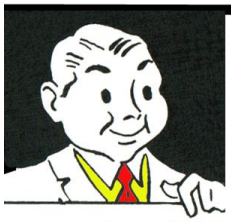
donuts, and if we are fortunate a bowl of soup or chili. So….why sit around the Clubhouse and be cozy when you can FYBO with your radio buddies??

Hope to see you there on Saturday, Feb 6th at Pt Defiance Park's Ft Nisqually Picnic Shelter[LINK]- with a kickoff time of 9am. Fun and Fellowship Guaranteed! PS Hot Coffee and fresh donuts are always welcome.

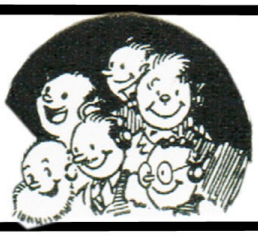
This FYBO photo shows the 'Salt Water Vertical' antenna being submerged by the incoming tide. Curious Kayakers came pretty close to being entangled in the submerged radial wires. "What's thingy?" one of the Kayakers asks. "That's a QRP ham radio antenna", one of the hams told them. "QRP, what's that?". "Oh, that's very high radio wave power", a FYBOer told them. The Kayakers promptly paddled away to a more inviting place on the beach.



On Saturday-
Stop by the Museum and visit with the ghost of ole Doc Spike. It's rumored that he lives in the MUSEUM WALLS.



THE LOGGER'S BARK PHOTO PAGE



From the dusty **BARK ARCHIVES**… circa- 9/25/2006… Intrepid crew of RCT Hams in the parking lot of Sunrise VC at Mt Rainier Nat Park just before hiking up to Dege Peak [LINK] (elev 7003) to participate in the ARRL Sept VHF Contest. L-R: KR7W w/ 6M Yagi in pack, AC7QN w/ lawn chairs, WG7X w/ team spirit + red boot laces, W7MSX w/ HF station, and W7WG w/ enthusiasm for all. R photo: Worth and Chuck heading up to Sourdough Ridge [LINK]. Video of 2011 Dege Peak VHF Contest Outing [LINK].

QST QST: The FYBOers will be using the small 10 Watt Elecraft KX3 SDR based radios this year-courtesy of their owners. Stop by FYBO and check these Neat-O radios out.

Club member Joe K7ZG operates his Yaesu FT-817 on a plywood lap desk- on July 29, 2012 in the Flight of the Bumble Bees QRP contest. Joe's Antenna is a 1/2 Wavelength wire with tuner. This QTH is along the Pacific Crest Trail [LINK] adjacent to Naches Peak, about a mile south of Chinook Pass. Chuck AC7QN and Rich KR7W also attended this popular QRP outing.

RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA

1916 - 2016

100 YEARS OF SERVICE

THE LOGGER'S BARK is the *OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA*… and is published by RCT, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

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Crawford Mountain	147.380 + PL=103.5	(E of Olympia @ 1800 ft ASL)
Central Tacoma:	440.625 + PL=103.5	
North Tacoma:	145.21 – PL=141.3	

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.